

## Weekly Study of Sunday's Message

September 27, 2026 *"Psalms: Songs of the Soul. A song of Wisdom"*

### I Intro.

IT'S FALL Y'ALL. And we're finishing up a unique series. There's a lot going on at NCC and you'll want to keep up with everything that's happening. Stay connected through our social media to keep up with everything that's going on. This is our companion devotional to Sunday's message. It's just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don't want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are fully committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family. If there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

### II Recap.

Music holds such an integral, important place and purpose in our world. Music can do things that no other medium can do. Music enhances what's happening in a movie or TV show. You can just listen to a score and guess what's happening in that scene without even watching it. Music is: workout music for baseball players. Halftime shows. Riles a crowd up at sporting events. Just imagine worship without...worship. Songs connect with a deep part of our soul. Something happens when we hear a song that brings back memories. Music connects inside of us with something outside of ourselves. We're in the final Sunday of our series about the Psalms called: **"Songs of the Soul"**. The psalms were written as a way for the people of God, in community, to experience the presence of God. That fills their souls. In a variety of ways. That's what music can do. It's why we have a time of worship. The first week we covered a psalm of lament. The second week we covered a psalm of thanksgiving. Last week was a psalm of praise. And we finish the series today with a psalm of wisdom.

### III Sunday.

All of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, points to a few simple things. And the psalms contain these same essential truths. The power and majesty of God. God's unlimited, unconditional care and love for us. God's desire for us to be whole, complete, experiencing eternal life with him. These truths lead us to our final psalm in this series. The importance of acquiring wisdom to help us on our journey in life towards these truths. All the teachings in scripture help us to acquire and grow in wisdom. Remember this passage from Jesus' visit to the temple.

**Luke 2:52 *"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people."***

The growth in our wisdom, will also grow our stature and favor. Today's psalm, Psalm 37 is loaded with wisdom. Everything you need to know about how to live. But it's long...and really tedious. Again, since the writer wrote it in a very uniquely structured and repetitive way, we can break down this psalm into three 'voices'. This psalm is a conversation between these three voices. And we're going to give life to each of these voices in our search for wisdom. But first, these three voices are addressing an issue I'm calling: **'The Problem'**.

**'The Problem'**. I want you to remember the reason wisdom is so important, and woven all through scripture. It's because wisdom solves 'The Problem' we all deal with. **And what is 'The Problem'?** The Problem is: Life isn't fair. Good people struggle. Bad people prosper. And this makes us want to give up on righteousness, to despair, or even take revenge. This is 'The Problem' every thinking and feeling person faces. This is the primary issue that causes us to drift in our search for wisdom. We are called to live a life dedicated to a higher calling. A life that is righteous, honorable, dignified, standing apart from the rest of the world. And this life stands against how the rest of the world is choosing to live. **So, what makes this 'The Problem'?** We don't know how to live with this truth. Let me get more honest. Sometimes we're not convinced this life of following Jesus is actually worth it.

**The 'Three Voices'**. We're going to just read this psalm, and get creative here. We'll address the temptations we struggle with as we live with 'The Problem'. We need to be brutally honest in how living a life of wisdom can save us from living in two of those unhealthy voices, and live in the voice of wisdom. I'll give you the three voices, read the psalm. Then how we choose the voice of wisdom.

- 1. The anxious voice**. The voice of complaint. **Why isn't the world working like I think it should?**
- 2. The impatient voice**. The voice of temptation. **Why should I try to live the better way, it doesn't seem to matter?** These two voices lead to envy, despair, and the urge to retaliate.
- 3. The wise voice**. The voice of reasoned experience. I recognize the world doesn't work like I think it should. But because I know these things about God, I will trust him and I choose to live righteously. A life dedicated to wisdom.

So, as you listen to Psalm 37, really lean in, and find your inner voice you tend to drift into, and, the wise voice that could speak to some of your struggles and needs today.

***Psalm 37. Don't worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither. Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.***

***Stop being angry! Turn from your rage. Do not lose your temper— it only leads to harm. For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the LORD will possess the land. Soon the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone. The lowly will possess the land and will live in peace and prosperity.***

***The wicked plot against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance. But the Lord just laughs, for he sees their day of judgment coming. The wicked draw their swords and string their bows to kill the poor and the oppressed, to slaughter those who do right. But their swords will stab their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.***

***It is better to be godly and have little than to be evil and rich. For the strength of the wicked will be shattered, but the LORD takes care of the godly. Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever. They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough. But the wicked will die. The LORD's enemies are like flowers in a field— they will disappear like smoke.***

***The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers. Those the LORD blesses will possess the land, but those he curses will die. The LORD directs the steps of the***

**godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.**

**Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread. The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing. Turn from evil and do good, and you will live in the land forever.**

**For the LORD loves justice, and he will never abandon the godly. He will keep them safe forever, but the children of the wicked will die. The godly will possess the land and will live there forever. The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong. They have made God's law their own, so they will never slip from his path.**

**The wicked wait in ambush for the godly, looking for an excuse to kill them. But the LORD will not let the wicked succeed or let the godly be condemned when they are put on trial.**

**Put your hope in the LORD. Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you by giving you the land. You will see the wicked destroyed. I have seen wicked and ruthless people flourishing like a tree in its native soil. But when I looked again, they were gone! Though I searched for them, I could not find them! Look at those who are honest and good, for a wonderful future awaits those who love peace. But the rebellious will be destroyed; they have no future. The LORD rescues the godly; he is their fortress in times of trouble. The LORD helps them, rescuing them from the wicked. He saves them, and they find shelter in him.**

I want to encourage you to read Psalm 37 this week when you find yourself drifting to your unhealthy inner voice when you face 'The Problem' head on. I know you saw and heard, the anxious voice and the impatient voice. I want you to honestly find which voice, or more likely both, (I know I do) you battle. And in your anxiety and impatience, let the song of wisdom speak to you.

#### **IV Challenge.**

Let me speak to the three voices again.

**1. For those of you who struggle with the anxious voice.** When you're feeling the tendency to see the inequities and struggles of 'The Problem', and tempted to get sucked into anxiety and complaint.

***"Why do the wicked prosper? Look at them - they're successful, comfortable, untouched. Meanwhile, I'm trying to do the right thing and I'm struggling. Where's the justice?"***

**Remember.**

***Don't worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither. Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.***

**2. For those of you who struggle with the impatient voice.** When you're feeling the tendency to see the inequities and struggles of 'The Problem', and tempted to get sucked into impatience and temptation.

***"Maybe I should give up on righteousness. Look how well it works for them. Maybe I should get angry, plot my revenge, take what I think I deserve."***

**Remember.**

***Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. Stop being angry! Turn from your rage. Do not lose your temper— it only leads to harm. For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the LORD will possess the land. Soon the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone.***

**3. For those of you who want the wise voice.** When you're feeling the tendency to see the inequities and struggles of The Problem. But you intentionally choose to lean into gathered, reasoned, trusted experience. See the pattern of God's hand in the world.

Remember.

**Trust and Delight (v. 3-4): "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this. He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn..."**

The key word is commit. True wisdom isn't based on your feelings about how the world works. It's a commitment to a way of life.

**Wait Patiently (v. 5-7): "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret..."**

Be still and wait patiently. There...easy enough. Stillness and patience will grow out of your pursuit of wisdom. God will not abandon you.

**The Wicked Will Fall (v. 9-10): "For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land"**

If you like the ending of a movie where the good ones win and the bad ones lose. You'll love this. **Understand and trust** what you're seeing now is not how the movie ends.

**The Righteous Endure (v. 18): "The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their inheritance will endure forever"**

1 Corinthians 13. Three things will remain. Faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these...LOVE.

**The Difference (v. 25): "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread"**

**This just doesn't feel true does it?** Obviously we're not seeing this in our world currently. And we have to accept that. Wisdom tells us this verse isn't everything will be fixed on earth in our lifetime. Suffering is just an inexplicable reality of our world. And I genuinely hate it. But wisdom tells us that God is at work, and we are to join him in this work.

This is the heart and voice of true wisdom. It's why we sing songs, psalms, about the importance of it. A closing thought.

**Wisdom is what you get when you've lived long enough to see patterns. The psalmist is old. He's watched the wicked rise and fall. He's watched the righteous endure. And he's saying: Trust that pattern. Don't be fooled by what looks true today. Justice is real. Righteousness matters. The wicked fade. The righteous will endure and inherit.**

That's wisdom. It's not optimism. Not naivety. Not toxic positivity. But pattern-recognition rooted in God's faithfulness. Wisdom doesn't drift into anxiety or impatience, or despair. Because it doesn't feel the need to explain why things don't happen the way they should. That's just wasting time and effort. And creates anxiety and impatience. Wisdom reframes all that it sees in the world, and decides to live according to what really matters.

And that's why we sing psalms about the importance of wisdom. And all the time about everything.